

Clare Rural District

is the

Administrative County of West Suffolk.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1938.

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IN THE

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To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration
my Annual Report for the year 1938 on the
Sanitary Circumstances, Vital Statistics, and
Health of the Clare Rural District.

The Report is an ordinary one drawn up
in accordance with the instructions issued by the
Ministry of Health in Circular 1728 dated the
25th day of October, 1938.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area :- 49,360 acres.

Number of parishes :- 24.

Estimated resident population of the whole district, 1938 :- 8,368

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)
according to the Rate Books :- 2,780

Rateable Value :- £28,995

Sum represented by a penny rate :- £91

The district is entirely agricultural in character and there are no trades or occupations except those associated with agricultural pursuits.

EXTRACTS from VITAL STATISTICS of the YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS :-

| | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Legitimate..... | 113 | 58 | 55 |
| Illegitimate..... | — | — | — |
| Grand Total | 113 | 58 | 55 |

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population :- 13.5

„ „ „ population (England and Wales) :- 15.1

STILLBIRTHS :-

| | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Legitimate..... | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Illegitimate..... | — | — | — |

Rate per thousand (live and still) births :- 34.1

DEATHS :-

| | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|--|--------|-------|---------|
| | 109 | 51 | 58 |

Death Rate per thousand estimated resident population :- 13.0

Death Rate per thousand estimated resident population
corrected for age and sex Distribution :- 8.8

„ „ „ population (England and Wales) :- 11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes :-

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| (a) Puerperal sepsis | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (b) Other puerperal causes | ... | ... | Nil. |

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :-

| | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Legitimate..... | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Illegitimate..... | 1 | — | 1 |

Death Rate of infants under one of age :-

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|------|
| All infants per thousand live births | ... | ... | 35.3 |
| Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births | | | 26.5 |
| Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births | | | Nil. |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | ... | ... | 14 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | ... | ... | Nil. |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | ... | Nil. |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) | ... | | Nil. |

The 109 deaths took place at the following age periods :-

| Ages | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Under 1 year. | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 and under 2 | — | — | — |
| 2 „ 5 | — | — | — |
| 5 „ 15 | — | — | — |
| 15 „ 25 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 25 „ 35 | 4 | — | 4 |
| 35 „ 45 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 45 „ 55 | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 55 „ 65 | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| 65 „ 75 | 12 | 7 | 19 |
| 75 and over | 14 | 33 | 47 |
| | — | — | — |
| | 51 | 58 | 109 |
| | — | — | — |

Birth and Death Rates during the last three years as compared with those for 1938 :-

| | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|
| Birth Rate | 12.9 | 12.9 | 11.1 | 13.5 |
| Death Rate | 10.7 | 10.2 | 9.9 | 8.8 |

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS according to CAUSE and SEX

| Causes of Death. | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever, etc. | | | |
| Measles | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | | | |
| Whooping Cough | | | |
| Diphtheria | | | |
| Influenza | | 1 | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | | 1 | 1 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | | | |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases ... | | | |
| Syphilis | 1 | | 1 |
| General Paralysis of the Insane, etc. | | | |
| Cancer | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| Diabetes | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Heart Disease | 7 | 14 | 21 |
| Aneurysm | | | |
| Other Circulatory Diseases ... | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... | | 1 | 1 |
| Peptic Ulcer | | | |
| Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... | | | |
| Appendicitis | 1 | | 1 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | | | |
| Other Diseases of Liver | | | |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 1 | | 1 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Puerperal Sepsis | | | |
| Other Puerperal Causes | | | |
| Congenital Causes, etc. | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Senility | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Suicide | | | |
| Other Violence | 12 | | 12 |
| Other Defined Causes | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Ill-defined Causes | 1 | | 1 |
| Totals | 51 | 58 | 109 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no alteration in the general arrangements.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :-

(a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.

(b) A whole time Sanitary Inspector. The appointment is held by Mr. B. Stock, C.R.S.I. of Clare. Mr. Stock has been Inspector for the Clare Rural District since the first of January, 1920.

HOSPITALS :-

There are no hospitals in the area. The majority of patients requiring hospital treatment go to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, or to the West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmund's.

There is no isolation hospital in the district and no fixed arrangement with any outside authority to take cases of infectious disease. The Newmarket Rural District Council (Cambs.) have an isolation hospital and cases can be sent there at a charge of £2-12-6 per week plus the cost of removal by motor ambulance. The question of isolation hospital accommodation in the County of West Suffolk is receiving consideration. It is anticipated that a central hospital for the use of the County will ultimately be provided.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

WATER SUPPLY :-

SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR :-

| | | |
|--|----------------|---|
| (1) Great Thurlow Hall. | Well. | Good, fit for drinking purposes. |
| (2) The Street Farm, Lidgate. | Well. | Good, " " |
| (3) Marshmorgen, Stradishall. | Well. | Good, " " |
| (4) Clare Water Supply from mains | Public Supply. | Good, " " |
| (5) Hundon Water Supply from mains | " | Good, " " |
| (6) Little Thurlow Park. | Well. | Good, " " |
| (7) Stoke College Supply. | Borehole. | Good, " " |
| (8) Sowley Green, Great Thurlow. | Well. | Good, " " |
| (9) Public Well, Withams, Wickhambrook. | Public well. | Good, " " |
| (10) Pump by Hound lun, Stradishall. | " | Good, " " |
| (11) Withersfield Road, Great Wrattling. | " | Good, " " |
| (12) Pump, Little Thurlow Green. | " | Good, " " |
| (13) Pump by Hales, Little Thurlow. | " | Good, " " |
| (14) Pump opp. Myrtle House, Little Thurlow. | " | Soil filtered pollution, not good. |
| (15) Pump, School Road, Kedington. | " | Good, fit for drinking purposes. |
| (16) Pump, Dash End, Kedington. | " | Good, " " |
| (17) Pump, Genesis Green. | " | Good, " " |
| (18) Pump, Top Green, Denston. | " | Good, " " |
| (19) Pump, Lower Street, Stansfield. | " | Good, " " |
| (20) Pump, Upper Street, Stansfield. | " | Good, " " |
| (21) Pump, Assington Green, Stansfield. | " | Good, " " |
| (22) Clopton Hall, Wickhambrook. | New borehole. | Good, " " |
| (23) Farrow's Bakery, Cavendish. | Well. | Good, " " |
| (24) Coley's Bakery, Clare. | Well. | Unfit for drinking purposes. |
| (25) Pump, Mill Cottage, Little Thurlow. | Well. | Good, fit for drinking purposes. |
| (26) Pump, opp. Myrtle House, Little Thurlow. | Public well. | Little change from previous analysis, see No 14. |
| (27) New Borehole, Moat House, Stradishall. | New borehole. | Good, fit for drinking purposes. |
| (28) Well, Rectory Farm Yard, Withersfield. | Well. | Unfit for drinking purposes. |
| (29) The Rectory, Withersfield. | Well. | Good, fit for drinking purposes. |
| (30) Wixoe Mill, Wixoe. | Well. | Good, " " |
| (31) Thatchery, Stoke-by-Clare. | Well. | Fair, " " |

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER SAMPLES :-

| | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Clare Public Supply. | Organisms growing on Agar at 37°c per cc. | 15. No B Coli in 100 cc |
| Hundon Public Supply. | " " " " " " " | 3. No B Coli in 100 cc |
| Pump opp. Myrtle House, Little Thurlow (July) | " " " " " " " | 118. No B Coli in 35 cc |
| Pump opp. Myrtle House, Little Thurlow (Dec.) | " " " " " " " | 22. No B Coli in 35 cc |

The reports upon the Clare and Hundon water supplies were that both chemically and bacteriologically they were quite pure and unpolluted and fit for drinking purposes.

Owing to the nature of the chemical report on No. 14 sample taken from the public pump opp. Myrtle House, Little Thurlow, a bacteriological examination was made, and, as this was unsatisfactory, the Public were warned not to use the water for drinking purposes. The source of the pollution was traced and removed and further bacteriological tests shewed a great improvement in the quality of the water.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936: SECTION 137.

Under this section plans deposited in accordance with the Building Byelaws are to be rejected unless the proposals for providing an adequate and wholesome supply of water are considered satisfactory by the Local Authority.

During the year occupation certificates have been granted in respect of the following premises :- Clare, one bungalow. Cavendish, one bungalow. Denston, a bungalow. Depden Green, two bungalows. Hundon, a bungalow. Wickhambrook, one house.

ACTION TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC SUPPLIES DURING THE YEAR :-

Public pumps have been repaired at Hundon, Withersfield, Cowlinge, Little Thurlow, Lidgate, Barnardiston and Wixoe. At Denston the well situated at Top Green has been provided with a re-inforced concrete cover and the old windlass, chain and bucket, replaced by a pump. At Stansfield a new pump has been fitted to the well in Upper Street.

At Wickhambrook ten cottages at Genesis Green were supplied from a privately owned well and complaints had been made concerning the objectional quality of the water obtained therefrom. On analysis no evidence of serious pollution was found. This well was ultimately acquired by the District Council, properly cleaned out, and protected against surface pollution at a cost of approximately £27. In June a further sample was examined and reported to be unpolluted and fit for drinking purposes.

Complaints were received regarding the inadequacy of the water supply at Farley Green, Stradishall, altogether eleven houses were involved. The normal supply in this part of the parish is obtained from three shallow wells which failed during the dry weather in the autumn. A new borehole 235 feet deep had, however, been sunk for the use of Moat House Farm. By agreement between the owner of the farm and the District Council the inhabitants now obtain water from this source.

Little Thurlow :-

There are four public pumps in this village and the supply has been maintained in a normal way, with the exception of that from the pump at The Street which failed during the dry weather in September and October. This entailed carting water from Thurlow Park for the supply of 20 houses for a period of two months.

Great Thurlow :-

There are no public supplies in this village. Complaints were received from the inhabitants of Sowley Green, an isolated group of about 10 houses, regarding the difficulty of raising water from the well by means of the hand pump and furthermore that the water was objectionable on account of its iron content. This is a privately owned well. The owner has had the pump repaired and adapted for use with a small petrol engine. An elevated tank and filter have also been provided. No further complaint has been received.

Withersfield :-

A second Public Inquiry into the District Council's proposals for a piped supply to this village was held by one of the Ministry of Health's Inspectors on June 21st. Sanction was given for a loan of £315 for works in connection with the borehole. The borehole is situated on a site in the parish of Great Thurlow adjacent to the road between Withersfield and Great Thurlow, it is 9 inches in diameter and 250 feet deep. Chalk was reached at 80 feet from the surface and the rest level of the water found to be 213 feet A.O.D. During the 14 days test pumping the level of the water sank to 177 feet A.O.D. but rapidly returned to normal when pumping was discontinued. The average yield was 51,840 gallons per day of 24 hours. It is hoped that ultimately the scheme will be extended to cover the parishes of Great Thurlow, Little Thurlow, Great and Little Bradley. An improved water supply would be a great asset to these parishes.

Hundon :-

The waterworks at Hundon have continued to give trouble during the year and the pumping plant etc. is obsolete and worn out. Steps are now being taken with a view to modernising the waterworks and increasing the capacity so it will, in the future, be possible to supply other parishes such as Stradishall, Denston and Stansfield where better supplies are needed. The R.A.F. station at Stradishall will probably be supplied from this source local attempts at obtaining water having been a failure.

Clare :-

The waterworks at Clare have continued to function satisfactorily. Supplies were laid from the mains to 7 premises, including one bakery and 4 new Council Houses during the year.

There are 24 parishes in the Clare Rural District. At the present time Clare and Hundon have a piped supply from Waterworks owned by the District Council. The major part of Stoke-by-Clare is supplied from private waterworks. A few houses in Little Wratting near Haverhill have a piped supply from the Urban District Council's main. At Hawkedon the supply is by means of standpipes from the private supply at The Hall. At Ousden a new borehole was sunk in 1935 behind the Post Office and a standpipe provided for the village street. The remaining 18 parishes are entirely dependent upon public and private wells.

During the year the whole question of water supplies has been under review and the following schemes have been considered by the District Council :-

- (a) A comprehensive scheme that would provide a piped supply for the whole of the Rural District.
- (b) The Withersfield supply with possible extensions to neighbouring parishes.
- (c) Improving and properly equipping the Hundon Waterworks so that it would be possible to take a piped supply to adjoining parishes and also to the R.A.F. Station at Stradishall if required.

The whole question is still under consideration.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :-

There is little new to report under this heading. The situation at Clare where untreated sewage is discharged directly into the River Stour remains the same. This matter has received much consideration from the District Council who have, for the time being, deferred immediate action owing to the high cost of an adequate scheme of sewerage and sewage purification. The River Stour receives a certain amount of pollution from other villages such as Kedington, Stoke-by-Clare and Cavendish. Such pollution, however, does not appear to be of a particularly serious nature although the cumulative effect should be borne in mind.

Mr. Stock reports that the following work has been done during the year in connection with drainage and sewerage :-

Hundon :- At the Council Cottages in North Street drainage is dealt with by means of a liquefaction tank and clinker bed filter. The ditchcourse receiving the effluent passes through the allotment gardens of six cottages and to prevent nuisance to the tenants of these cottages it was found necessary to put in 120 yards of 9 inch drain in the outfall ditchcourse below the cottages. This ditchcourse ultimately drains into the Chilton Stream.

At Stoke-by-Clare 105 yards of 6 inch outfall drain were put in at the Rookery in order to complete the outfall drain from the village. This drain ultimately discharges into the River Stour.

| Repairs and new drains to houses. | | Blocked drains dealt with. | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| Cavendish | 4 | | 2 |
| Clare | 7 | | 5 |
| Depden | 2 | | — |
| Hawkedon | 2 | | — |
| Hundon | 6 | | 8 |
| Kedington | 4 | | — |
| Poslingford | 2 | | — |
| Stoke-by-Clare | 1 | | — |
| Withersfield | 1 | | — |
| Great Wratting | 8 | | — |

RIVERS AND STREAMS :-

All the streams in the district drain the higher boulder clay area into the valley of the river Stour. This river runs through the district from North to South and then turning Eastwards forms the Southern boundary. The parishes situated along the course of the river are Great and Little Bradley, Little Thurlow, Great Thurlow, Great Wratting, Kedington, Wixoe, Stoke-by-Clare, Clare and Cavendish. The total population of these parishes is approximately 3,967. The only ones of any size are Kedington pop. (752), Stoke-by-Clare (pop. 433), Clare (pop. 1252), and Cavendish (pop. 716). The river receives a certain amount of pollution from all these parishes, but the arrangements at Clare, which is the only one possessing a piped water supply, present the greatest difficulty.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION :-

| | Privies abolished. | Pail closets provided. | Water closets provided. |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cavendish | 1 | — | 4 |
| Clare | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Depden | — | 2 | — |
| Hundon | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Kedington | — | 4 | — |
| Little Thurlow | 2 | 2 | — |
| Poslingford | — | 2 | — |
| Stoke-by-Clare | 1 | — | 1 |
| Withersfield | 1 | — | 1 |
| Totals | 8 | 19 | 13 |

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CONVENIENCES :-

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Pit Privies | 939 |
| Pail Closets | 870 |
| Water Closets | 294 |
| Total | 2103 |

PUBLIC CLEANSING :-

Collections of unburnable rubbish are made fortnightly at Clare by the Parish Council. The refuse is deposited in a disused pit by the road on the Chilton road. The refuse is covered and the dump kept in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

At Cavendish collections are made periodically every two months by the Parish Council. The nuisance previously created by indiscriminate tipping has been abated and the refuse is now disposed of in a pit situated at Skates Hill, Glemsford. There are adequate facilities for properly covering the refuse with earth.

No organised attempt to deal with this matter has been made in any of the other parishes. It is true that in an area so essentially rural the majority of the inhabitants have sufficient garden ground upon which to dispose of ordinary refuse without creating a nuisance. On the other

hand the consumption of tinned foodstuffs is increasing and the problem of dealing with the containers presents a difficulty that will need to be dealt with sooner or later.

There are two possible methods of dealing with the matter viz :-

- (1) A scavenging scheme administered and controlled by the District Council.
- (2) A local scheme in each parish.

In this District, comprised as it is of small and scattered parishes, the latter suggestion would seem to be most feasible. Routine collections could be made in every parish, the refuse deposited at approved places in a tidy and orderly manner and properly covered with earth. At the present time tins and such like rubbish are disposed of by being thrown away in an indiscriminate manner to the detriment of an otherwise attractive countryside, and, as I have previously stated, the trouble is one which will increase in magnitude unless adequately dealt with.

SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Number of Inspections | ... | ... | 1,957 |
| Complaints | ... | ... | 13 |
| Infectious Diseases | ... | ... | 15 |
| Schools | ... | ... | 11 |
| Water Supplies | ... | ... | 291 |
| Dwelling Houses | ... | ... | 270 |
| New Buildings | ... | ... | 91 |
| Drainage Work and Refuse Dumps | | | 187 |
| Cowsheds and Dairies | ... | ... | 89 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | 36 |
| Fried Fish Premises | ... | ... | 11 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | 172 |
| Knacker's Yards | ... | ... | 8 |
| Factories and Workshops | ... | ... | 71 |
| General Inspections | ... | ... | 162 |
| Re-inspections | ... | ... | 249 |
| Petroleum Acts | ... | ... | 39 |
| Explosive Acts | ... | ... | 21 |
| Shops Acts | ... | ... | 90 |
| Overcrowding, Housing Act 1936 | ... | ... | 1 |

NOTICES SERVED :-

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|---------------|------|
| (a) Informal written | 158. | Complied with | 139. |
| (b) Statutory | 1. | Complied with | 1. |

SHOPS ACT :-

There is no change in the number of shops viz 72. The majority are small and only in 19 cases is outside labour employed. Heating is either by means of oil stoves or electric fires. In two instances pit privies have been replaced by water closets and in two other cases a piped supply of water has been laid on from the District Council's water main the existing supply being from a well which was found to be polluted and unfit for drinking purposes.

CAMPING SITES :- There are no camping sites in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT :- No action has been necessary to prevent nuisances caused by smoke. The district is essentially rural and there are no factories of any size.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS :- There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :-

No Council houses were found to be infested and only one other house was dealt with. Disinfestation was carried out by means of a preparation known as Zaldecide and no re-infestation occurred.

SCHOOLS :-

There are no fresh matters to report under this heading. Periodical cleansing, painting, decorating etc. are looked after by the County Education Committee and School Managers. No closures were necessary on account of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

HOUSING.

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :-

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 212. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | | | | 270 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | ... | ... | ... | 89 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | | | 153 |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | | | | 57 |

II. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:-

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| | | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
|--|--|---|-----|-----|-----|----|

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

A. *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-*

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (2) | | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :- | | | | |
| | (a) | By owners | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | | | — |

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-*

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | | | — |
| (2) | | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :- | | | | |
| | (a) | By owners | ... | ... | ... | — |
| | (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | | | — |

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-*

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | 1 |

D. *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-*

| | | |
|--|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | 2 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | — |

With regard to the 7 unfit houses referred to in Section 1, Subsection 3 of the Housing Table above, the following action has been taken :-

| | |
|---|---|
| Two cottages, Bridewell Street, Clare. | Demolition Order made for each cottage. |
| One cottage, The Street, Lidgate. | Demolition Order suggested. Cottage sold to new owner who has given a builder order to repair. |
| One cottage, Mill Road, Hundon. | Demolition Order suggested. Owner given builder order to repair. |
| One cottage, Withams, Wickhambrook. | Closing Order suggested. Owner has had necessary repairs carried out and cottage made fit for habitation. |
| One cottage, Swing Corner, Stradishall. | Demolition Order suggested. Owner has agreed to close cottage as soon as tenant can vacate same. |
| One cottage, near Cohnold's, Depden. | Thatched roof badly damaged by fire. Tenants obtained another cottage. Owner agreed to close cottage. |

Closing Orders were made in respect of the two cottages mentioned in last year's Annual Report at Coltsfoot Green, Wickhambrook. The four cottages at Hundon have been reconditioned and made fit for habitation.

Five cottages voluntarily closed by the owners without the making of Demolition Orders have been demolished by the owners without any further action being taken by the Council.

IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV., OVERCROWDING :-

| | | |
|----------|--|------|
| (A) -(1) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 7 |
| (2) | Number of families dwelling therein | 7 |
| (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein (26 adults, 14 children) | 40 |
| (B) | -Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year (18 adults, 14 children) | 4 |
| (C) -(1) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 33 |
| (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases (144 adults, 75 children) | 219 |
| (D) | No cases of houses becoming overcrowded after abatement. | Nil. |
| (E) | At the beginning of the year 36 cases of overcrowding were on the register. Four new cases occurred during the year thus making a total of 40. | |

The four new cases were as follows :-

One family. Cottage destroyed by fire during thunderstorm. Family moved temporarily into small cottage and later obtained larger cottage to abate overcrowding.

One family moved into district. Cottage too small. After 12 days this family obtained a larger cottage in an adjoining district and moved out of this area.

One family. One daughter left home for domestic service. Lodger (wife's brother) went to Leeds for employment. Overcrowding abated.

One family. Widowed daughter and family ejected from cottage in Halstead R.D. came to live with parents at Hlondon. After a few weeks she obtained tenancy of cottage, Hundon Road, Barnardiston and moved into it. Overcrowding abated.

(These are included in the 33 cases abated).

The remaining 29 cases were abated as follows :-

| | | |
|--|--------|----|
| Removed to new Council Cottages | ... | 22 |
| Removed to larger cottages | | 4 |
| Numbers reduced in family | | 2 |
| Owner enlarged cottage, 2 additional rooms built | | 1 |
| | | — |
| | | 29 |
| Four cases abated as shown above | | 4 |
| | | — |
| | Total | 33 |
| | | — |

During the year the 32 houses in course of erection for dealing with overcrowding were completed. Loan sanction for the erection of 68 houses was obtained and erection of these was commenced.

The distribution is as follows :- Barnardiston 2, Bradley Great 4, Cavendish 4, Clare 8, Depden 4, Hawkedon 2, Hundon 4, Kedington 4, Stansfield 2, Stradishall 4, Wickhambrook 20, Withersfield 2, Wrattling Great and Little 8.

When these are completed the total number of houses built by the Council (including 10 taken over from the Melford R.D.C.) will be 264.

Number of plans received and examined under the Building Byelaws:- 17

- 3 houses. (Clare 2, Wickhambrook 1)
- 5 bungalows. (Cavendish 1, Denston 1, Depden 2, Hundon 1)
- 8. Additions and alterations to premises
(at Clare 3, Stoke-by-Clare 1, Kedington 1, Little Thurlow 2, Wickhambrook 1)
- 1. New lock-up surgery and waiting room.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION of FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY :-

Number of Cowkeepers or Purveyors of milk on the Register :-

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|----|
| Retail Purveyors and Producers | ... | 38 |
| Wholesale „ „ „ | ... | 14 |
| Wholesale and Retail Purveyors | ... | 2 |
| Butter only | | 7 |
| | | — |
| | Total | 61 |
| | | — |

There have been no fresh registrations and two of the retail purveyors and producers, having given up the trade, were removed from the register.

The premises generally are in fair condition and a reasonable standard of cleanliness is maintained. During the year Mr. Stock has sent four samples for bacteriological examination. In each case the sample complied with the requirements of the methylene blue test and no tubercle bacilli were found.

Twenty one producers are registered under the County scheme for accredited or Tuberculin Tested milk and samples for bacteriological examination are periodically taken by the County Authorities.

One principal licence permitting the use of the designation "Pasteurised" in relation to milk treated at premises situate in the district and one supplementary licence for milk treated in an adjoining district were granted by the Council.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :-

The number of slaughter houses in the district is 13 :- Registered 12, Licensed 1. They are situated in the following parishes :- Cavendish 1, Clare 4, Great Thurlow 2, Hundon 1, Lidgate 1, Little Wrattling 1, Stansfield 1, Stoke-by-Clare 1, Wickhambrook 1 (Licensed). The licence for the small slaughterhouse at Stradishall has not been renewed and the occupier now uses licensed premises at Wickhambrook. Two slaughterhouses at Great Thurlow have not been used during the last twelve months. In one instance such slaughtering as may be required is carried out in the adjoining town of Haverhill, and, in the other, the occupier has given up the business.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 :-

Thirty seven licenses to stun or slaughter animals have been granted by the Council during the year.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

| | Cattle excl'ding cows. | Cows. | Calves | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. |
|--|------------------------------|-------|--------|------------------------|-------|
| Number inspected | 91 | 3 | 18 | 160 | 209 |
| All diseases except tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned | | | 1 | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | | | | | |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | Nil | Nil | 5 5 | Nil | Nil |
| Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned | | | | | 2 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | | | | | |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | .95 |

BAKEHOUSES :-

There are now 14 bakehouses in the district two at Poslingford having been closed during the year. They are situated in the following parishes :- Clare 4, Cavendish 2, Hundon 1, Kedington 1, Little Thurlow 1, Stradishall 1, Wickhambrook 1, Withersfield 1, Ousden 2.

Samples of water from two wells supplying bakehouses have been taken for analysis with the result that one at Clare was found to be unfit. The owner of this bakehouse has now put in a piped supply from the Council's water main, and, in another instance, an insanitary privy has been replaced by a water closet. In two cases mechanical dough mixers have been installed. The premises generally have an adequate water supply and are kept in a cleanly condition.

PREMISES WHERE ICE CREAM IS SOLD :-

| | | |
|------------|-----|---|
| Clare | ... | 2 |
| Stansfield | ... | 1 |

In each case the conditions under which this article of food is manufactured are satisfactory.

FRIED FISH SHOPS :-

There are two shops in the district: one at Clare and one at Cavendish. No complaints have been made regarding any nuisance caused by the trade and the businesses appear to be carried on in a careful and cleanly manner.

PREVALENCE of, and CONTROL over, INFECTIOUS
and other DISEASES.

The number of cases reported continued to be small and there is little to comment upon. Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Newmarket (Cambs.) Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital at Exning near Newmarket. There is no definite arrangement between the two Authorities, but, so far, no difficulty has been experienced. Cases are charged for at the rate of £2-12-6 a week or 7/6 a day.

The total number of cases notified during the year, excluding tuberculosis, was 15 distributed as follows :-

| | Pneumonia. | Puerperal Pyrexia. | Erysipelas. | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria. |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Clare | 2 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Stoke-by-Clare | 2 | | | | |
| Cowlinge | | | 1 | | |
| Cavendish | | | | | 2 |
| Hundon | 1 | | | | |
| Kedington | | | 1 | | |
| Gt. Thurlow | 1 | | | | |
| Little Wratting | | | | | 1 |
| Poslingford | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Totals | 7 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |

The diphtheria and scarlet fever cases were admitted to the above mentioned isolation hospital.

So far as non-notifiable infectious disease is concerned there is little of importance to record. There was one death from influenza, which was prevalent during the early part of the year and in the autumn.

There have been the usual outbreaks of whooping cough and chicken pox amongst school children, Great Wratting being the village most affected, but only 95 children were reported from schools as being absentees on account of illness as against 134 for the previous year.

SMALL POX :-

No information has been received during the year relating to the entry of any contacts into the area and no vaccinations have been performed by your Medical Officer of Health.

DISINFECTIONS :-

There is no steam disinfecter in the district available for general use and no provision for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons. Infected premises are dealt with by the formalin spray or by other means that can adequately be applied by the Sanitary Inspector.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS :-

Specimens for bacteriological examination are usually sent to Dr. W. H. Harvey at the Bacteriological Laboratory, Green Street, Cambridge. Some Medical Practitioners, however, send to the Clinical Research Association, London.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN :-

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free of charge except in such cases where the circumstances of the patient are such as not to warrant this course.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION :-

Up to the present nothing has been done in the way of instituting any general scheme for the immunisation of children. It may, however, be possible to make a commencement through the co-operation of Medical Practitioners in the area as has been done in other cases. The District Council might, in these circumstances consider the advisability of providing the material for immunization, plus a fee to the practitioner concerned.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the Year.

| AGE PERIODS. | NEW CASES. | | | | DEATHS. | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----|----------------|----|------------|----|----------------|----|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 65 and upwards. | | | | | 1 | | | |
| TOTALS | 1 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — |

There were no deaths of non-notified persons.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

The Factories Act 1937, which came into force on the 1st July, 1938 has now brought under the designation "Factory" such places as were formerly classed as "Workshops" and "Workplaces." In this district there are no factories to which Section 34 (means of escape in case of fire), applies.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----------------|
| Number of Factories | ... | ... | 75 |
| Number of Inspections | ... | ... | 73 |
| Defects found | ... | ... | 7 |
| Nature of defects :- | | | |
| Want of cleanliness | ... | ... | 5 |
| Defective floors | ... | ... | 1 |
| Defective structure | ... | ... | 1 |
| (Note.—Blacksmith's Shop rebuilt to remedy above). | | | |
| Outworkers lists received | ... | ... | 2 |
| Actual number of outworkers | ... | ... | 4 ¹ |
| Infected premises | ... | ... | None. |

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